

CDF NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



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Turn Your Clock Forward and Replace that Smoke Alarm Battery

Sacramento- CDF State Fire Marshal John Tennant reminds all Californians to replace their smoke alarm battery this weekend when they turn their clocks forward. "We know that smoke alarms save lives," says Chief Tennant. "But they don't work unless a working battery is in place. It just takes a few seconds to replace that battery, and it could make a life and death difference."

"The fire service has long advocated the 'Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery' campaign, which can save your family," said Chief Tennant. "Before you go to bed this Saturday night, turn the clock forward one hour, and replace the battery in all smoke alarms. Then you can sleep soundly knowing that you've provided one of the best ways to protect your family from fire."

Every year lives are needlessly lost in homes in which there is no smoke alarm, or a non-functioning smoke alarm. Each year, nearly 3,200 people die in residential fires, and approximately 1,100 are children under the age of 15 years old. About 90 percent of households have smoke alarms, however surveys have found that 20 percent of those households have smoke alarms that were not working, mostly because the battery was dead or missing.

"Daylight savings time is an easy way to remember to do this very important task," adds Chief Tennant. "I urge everyone to change their batteries in their smoke detectors every six months. Remember, almost every day a smoke detector saves somebody's life...it's up to you to protect yourself and your family."

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